

A Gift Is As A Precious Stone (Prov. 17:8)

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A Gift is as a Precious Stone (Prov 17:8)

My great grandfather on my daddy's side was a full blood Mohawk Indian. He was a movie star in the silent picture era. He was also a snake oil salesman too. An interesting character to say the least. Upon his death there were some things handed down to my father that belonged to him. One was an old silver ring with three beautiful turquoise stones in it. When I first saw the ring when I was a child I instantly fell in love with it. I would beg daddy to let me see it, then let me hold it, then let me put it on. To

me it was beautiful and it was almost hypnotic to look at. When I read Prov 17:8 the other day I thought of 2 things. I thought of Rom 6:23... but the gift of God is eternal life... And I thought of that precious ring that I so treasured as a child. The gift of eternal life is a precious gift. It is the gift that the rich young ruler sought by saying "What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" It is what Jesus taught in Jn 3:16. It is what Jesus taught

I, A Precious Gift - Our Bible
translators used the word precious to describe this gift. Precious means = of great price or value, costly, beloved, dear. There

is no more costly gift than the gift of Eternal ^{life}
A. Precious Because its Given Freely - Notice
that this precious stone was a gift, a
present. Some thing that is given freely.
Now I believe that ~~oft~~ times when a
person is given something for free, they
take it for granted or miss use it. But if it is
a precious, costly gift it is usually treasured
instead of being miss used. Just like thinking
if I were to be given that ring it would be
precious, I wouldn't misuse, devalue that ring.
This gift of eternal life is a free gift to be
treasured, it is an incorruptible inheritance...

B. Precious Because its Gracious Favor -
This hebrew word translates precision
here is the word "Kham" The first appearance
of this word in the bible is in Gen 6:8
Time and time again this word it translates
Grace or favor in the O.T. That's why
I don't believe this gift here is a bribe in
a negative sense. It is an undeserved, un-
merited gift. A gift of grace. This
gift of eternal life you didn't earn it
you couldn't work for it. ^{Tit 3: 7} said
it best. Glory to God! It's grace that brings...

II. A Personal Gift - I love to watch
the antique road show. Those people
bringing in family heirlooms and prized posses-
ions. I hate to see it when the mind is letent

- 1) It is what Jesus wrought on the cross of Calvary, the gift of God to all who believe: eternal life. And it was the hope of the Apostles as they boldly proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ: The hope of the gift of eternal life! I want us to look at the gift of eternal life, through the lens of this OT proverb. Notice first of all that this gift was a...
- 2) ...than the gift of eternal life. Remember what Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ's death on the cross, the gift was purchased. Notice some things about this precious gift....
- 3) ...inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,(1 Peter 1:4) ...And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.(1 John 2:25). I want to be honest: The word here gift is used in every OT passage in a negative since. Often translated "bribe." Bribe= anything given or promised as an inducement. We are faced with the choice of repent and believe unto everlasting life, or rebel and perish unto everlasting death. I'll take the bribe, I'll repent and receive the free gift!
- 4) Genesis 6:8 But Noah found **khane** (grace) in the eyes of the LORD.
- 5) Titus 3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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3) ...inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you. (1 Peter 1:4) ...And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life. (1 John 2:25). I want to be honest. The word here gift is used in every OT passage in a negative sense which translated "bribe". Bribes= separated from the one that loved us and died for us! Eternal Life! Everlasting life! Heaven! The Kingdom of God! A mansion bright and far, the crystal sea.

2) ...don't see the value. But all you have to do is reach in to your pocket and pull out that gracious precious stone and take another look. When you do you'll see an old rugged blood drenched cross, you'll see an empty sepulcher, you'll see apostles die for that gift, saints suffer for that gift, you'll see the promise of God, and soon their cheap perspective will fade away!

of their sails when in their eyes it is valued ^{in others} more than
A. It is Cherished Personally - in the
eyes of him that hath it. If I were to
take that old ring of Grand Pa Blackhawk
to the antique road show and have it put
before the eyes of a critic. He probably would
not place the value upon it that I would.
Oh but to a 9 year old boy fascinated by the
story of an old indian movie starring my eye
would light up everytime I would see it. I remember
sneaking into dad's jewelry box just to get a quick
peek at that old ring. Rebecca Gen 24:53 inticed to
come to Isaac. Along the trip... Every now and then

B. It is Cheapened Perspectively There
are these appraisers of Christianity
out there. They look at your life
and they hear your story and try
to cheapen the gift which you so
greatly prize. Oh yes. You are one of
those pie in the sky big and big when you
die kind of people. Gales of pearl streets
of Gold, well from where I'm standing you
not having too much fun, you seem to be
going through a lot of unnecessary trouble
From their perspective, they don't see the value

III. A Prosperous Gift - When I
read that last line I thought of an
old Gospel song I heard several
years ago. "He ain't never done me

nothing, do we nothing, but good."

A. It Prospers in the Valley of Life -

Evidently this store of grace has been cut to bring out its beauty, and what ever facet he looks at is pleasing.

But as I thought on the phrase, I thought of the turns and the valleys of life.

We carry this gracious stone in a lot of valleys the hospital, the funeral home. This stone is there in the bitter time in the broken times of life. The promise of eternal life can breathe life into deepest darkest of valleys! Yea though I walk

B. It Prospers in the View of Life -

You see when we are in these valleys of life and we pull out that grace stone it changes our view, our perspectives on the turns of life, on the hills and valleys of life. Compared to eternity this valley this difficulty this trial is so small. This life is merely the the foyer to eternity. James 4:14 →

Pg 39 the breadth of a hand 1 Chron Life = Shadow
A view of eternity puts life into perfect
-ity!

IV Closing - Pilgrims Progress: Pilgru

discovers that this city is set for destruction, he cries in sorrow! Eternal life Eternal life! We as believers in Christ can shout with →

1) James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

2) ...shout with tones of glory and hallelujah! Eternal life! Eternal life! The Precious Gift of God!

3) Eternal Life! Eternal Life! What wondrous words of truth! A cry of glee; the shout for joy! What glorious new birth!

Eternal Life! Eternal Life! A gracious gift to me, The cost of which my Saviour paid, Upon the cruel Tree!

Eternal Life! Eternal Life! No longer death's domain. My soul once black and ruled by sin, Is now my Saviour's reign!

Eternal Life! Eternal Life! No more the wrath to come: This from whence my praises ring, And all my Hallelujah's sung.